

# SOCK & BUSKIN

January 2011

## Casting for Dixie Swim Club Announced

Auditions for *The Dixie Swim Club* went..., well, swimmingly. Even Sunday's horrible weather and harrowing driving conditions did not daunt the 25 actors trying out for the five fiery Dixie chick roles. I am happy to introduce my stellar cast: **Amy Choudhury Martin** is *Jeri Neal*, **Megan Meade-Higgins** is *Sheree*, **Pam Montgomery** is *Lexie*, **Marie Reinman** is *Vernadette*, and **Theresa Selvaggio** is *Dinah*.

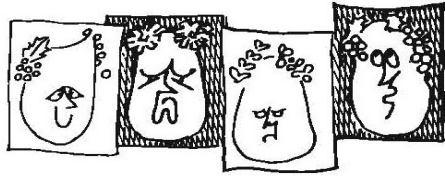
In Dixie back-stage news, **Harry Burkey** has signed on as Assistant Director, and one of our talented auditioners, **Elizabeth Schaefer**, will be joining us as part of **Phyllis Reeve's** prop crew. If you would like to join our merry band the other crew chiefs are:

Producer - **Carolyn Darby**,  
Stage Mgr. - **Vonnie Miller**  
Tech Director - **Don Corbin**,  
Set Dresser - **Susan Davis**  
Lights - **Diana Ruzzin**  
Sound - **Chris Ruzzin**  
Costumes - **Vicki Urbanik**  
Make-up - **Bev Dickinson**

"THANK YOU" to everyone who helped at auditions, you made my job easy.  
"THANK YOU" to all you talented people who tried out, you made my job hard.

Kathy Conlon  
Director, *The Dixie Swim Club*

Photos by Dale Pegg



Annual Meeting  
Monday, February 7  
War Memorial Auditorium

## Recent events pictured



## Annual Grosse Pointe Parade

## Auction Donation to Chris Binkowski

Each year the members of Grosse Pointe Theatre hold a silent and live auction at their Christmas party. The monies raised are given to various charities in the area. This year the auctions raised just under \$3000. The board unanimously decided to give the money to Chris Binkowski and his family.

Chris was the musical director for *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and was supposed to fill the same position for *Annie Get You Gun*. When he took on the show his health was much better but, as time went on Chris was unsure as to whether he would be able to get through the show without serious cost to his health and to the show. John Dickinson took over the position.

Chris has mesothelioma. He has lasted 8 months past his initial prognosis. He goes for ascetic drains every 5 days at Henry Ford Hospital, downtown. One procedure drained 9 liters of fluid.

The family, which includes his wife and two daughters (7 years and 18 months), owns one old van which gets Melissa to work and Chris to treatments. Money for Christmas for the children, food, gas and rent are concerns for the family.

The monies were donated to Chris and his family on behalf of the Grosse Pointe Theatre Board of Directors and the members of Grosse Pointe Theatre.



Dixie Swim Club

Recent  
Try-outs



The Exonerated

Our mission: To present theatre excellence that exceeds the expectations of our patrons and members.

## GROSSE POINTE THEATRE

2009-10 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### Sock & Buskin Staff

Editor: Geoffrey Nathan

Assistant Editors Gwenn Samuel

Contributors: Mary Lou Britton, Board Members

Photography: Dale Pegg, Tim Reinman

This is the official newsletter of Grosse Pointe Theatre, issued and mailed or emailed monthly to all members of record. Any news not received for publication will be delivered via the **GPT Weekend Update** which is sent to all members with email addresses on record. All correspondence should be sent to:

**Sock & Buskin c/o Grosse Pointe Theatre**

315 Fisher Road, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

email: [gpteducation@aol.com](mailto:gpteducation@aol.com)

# GPT Calendar

Date	Event
Monday, January 3, 6:30 PM	Board Meeting
Sunday, January 16 2 PM	<i>Relatively Speaking</i> opens
Saturday, January 29 10:00 AM	<i>Scarlet Pimpernel</i> Auditions
Sunday, January 30 4:00 PM	<i>Scarlet Pimpernel</i> Auditions
Saturday, January 29, after performance	<i>Relatively Speaking</i> Cast & Crew Party
Sunday, January 30, 10 AM	<i>Relatively Speaking</i> strike
Monday, February 7, 7:30 PM	Membership Meeting
Friday, February 18, 8 PM	<i>The Exonerated</i> opens, with afterglow reception



## Out and About with Gwenn Samuel



Former member **Madeline Willis** and family are returning to her English home for the holidays. She is still teaching little girls to dance in the wild wild west! She sends holiday wishes to all of her GPT friends.

**Don** Adzigan's first submission to *Shutter Bug* magazine was printed! It is in the Jan. '11 edition on page 16. The photo was taken at Sunset Junque in South Haven. Is this a burgeoning new career? Don has been working on photography at the Wayne State Archeology Lab. Congrats, Ansel . . . er . . . Don.

**Ed Thomas'** most recent work, *Romeo & Juliet's Unofficial, Unnecessary Sequel* is now published and available on Eldridge Publishing's website. It is currently featured prominently on their homepage. A direct link to the script's page is here: <http://www.histage.com/playdetails.asp?PID=2331>. It is also the very first script listed on the very first page of their spring 2011 catalogue!

**Paula DiSante** was a Top Ten Finalist in the screenwriting competition at the **Elmore Leonard** Literary Arts and Film Festival. The three-day event was held at the Community House in Birmingham in November. Paula has done lots of successful writing lately—Congratulations!

**Laura Bartell** has completed her tenure as resident scholar at the American Bankruptcy Institute in Alexandria, Virginia, and has returned for the winter term of teaching at Wayne State. For the holidays, the **Harrs** are going to the Turks & Caicos Islands. In January **Stan** will be holding auditions for *The Producers* at Farmington Players (he is music-directing).

**Barb Elliott** has happy times with her eldest son in the beautiful community of Naples, FL. If anyone wants to celebrate the New Year with Barb, she'll be back on the 30th of December.

**William** and **Carolyn Darby** are going to an all-inclusive resort in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic for Xmas. They'll be home for New Year's Eve to celebrate with family.

**Mike** and **Emmajean Evans** will be in New Jersey for the holidays and beyond—awaiting the arrival of their two grandbabies. They also look forward to a few shows in NYC in the interim.

**Phyllis** and **Mark Reeve** began their holiday season with a Thanksgiving visit from son **Scott**, his wife **Mary** and granddaughter **Holly**.

**Tim Reinman** maintains his Shakespearian connections... Check out a recent Reduced Shakespeare Company Podcast (they wrote *Shakespeare* [Abridged]). In episode #208, the RSC used an audio clip that Tim sent in. He's gone world-wide now! Tim says, "I've been listening for a couple years now and I think that's only like the second time they've ever done that!" Also, you may notice that Tim loosely borrowed the RSC's format for the GPT Podcast! Check the main page on [www.gpt.org](http://www.gpt.org) to hear our own monthly show.

**Gary LaKind** and **Deb Dworkin** were cast in *Rent* at Stagecrafters. Gary will be playing Roger and Deb is in the ensemble. The show will run from February 18th to March 6th.

*Out and about, cont'd*

(Continued on page 3)

## **NOMINEES FOR GPT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012**

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR (Note: In last month's S & B Vicky Urbanik was a candidate for Membership Chair. Since that time, she has withdrawn. Blair Arden has accepted the nomination.)**

**Blair Arden:** Blair has been a member for 30 + years. He has chaired lighting and sound, each for more than two dozen shows. He also chaired special effects for approximately 10 productions. He appeared onstage in several of our productions. For over 15 years Blair has been our over-all sound equipment manager, and for more than eight years, he has been our webmaster. Blair also has served as cook for several set ups and strikes. He is married to fellow GPT member Gerylann.



**Statement:** These days, this job requires both time and computer skills. I have both. I will have online membership renewal and payment in time for 2011 renewals. No stamps or driving required: joining GPT will be as easy as giving us some information and clicking a few links. I intend to again have forms and documents online that will help GPT members better understand what resources we have available to us and learn how to more easily do the tasks for which they volunteer.

**Don Bischoff:** Don is a 10-year member who has acted in nine productions (all musicals). He choreographed two shows, and he has sung, danced and acted professionally. Don is a self-employed painter. Family includes wife Tracy and sons Owen and Kyle, all of whom have appeared in GPT productions. Don lives in Macomb. He is a huge baseball fan.



**Statement:** Over my 30 years of experience in the theatre, my passion has evolved from a love of performing into a love for the entire creative, collaborative process. I find joy in the theater by working up new ideas, comic bits, or subtle tweaks that make each moment within a show special. While I still like the happy musicals best, I've learned to apply my high-energy, full commitment style of performing to all aspects of the theatre: from assembling the cast and crew through to the finished product.

### **TREASURER**

**Mary Lou Britton:** Mary Lou has been a member for 45 years, and in that time period has appeared on our stage at least once, but backstage she has filled almost every position, some many times. She also has served as Director, Producer, Stage Manager and Technical Director. She has been on the Board as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and PR Chair. Mary Lou also has edited our newsletter and our program, has chaired our Long Range Planning and many other committees and currently is Vice President of CTAM. She is an avid quilter. Her daughter and family live in Tucson. She is retired from her job as Executive Vice President of the GP Chamber of Commerce.



**Statement: GPT is a large, successful corporation and we've made giant steps toward financially behaving like one in the past decade or so. I want to continue that growth to assure that we are on solid ground and so that our accumulated funds are working for us.**

**Chris Kaiser:** A member for 30 years, Chris has performed in six of our shows, in both dramatic and musical productions. Backstage, she has produced three shows, and she has served on many other committees, including a stint as the "six-handed dresser" for *Shakespeare*. Chris has been a Board member including stints of House and Ticket Chair. She is recently retired as a teacher in the Grosse Pointe Public School system, and she holds a Ph.D in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Married to our former accountant, Jay, they have three daughters and two indulged grandchildren.



**Statement: I have served on strategic planning committees in my professional life. I believe that beyond making the plan we will need to update policies, procedures and by-laws to ensure the plan's success.**

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

**Rick Hawley:** Rick is a 10-year member of GPT who has appeared in the choruses of three shows, has stage managed and has put together six shows as Technical Director, also spending a great amount of time in the scene shop on most productions. Currently, he is Production Chair of our Board. He is a software engineer and works in advanced technology and testing. Married to Denise, with three children, Rick enjoys golf, poker and travels a great deal, both for pleasure and for his job.

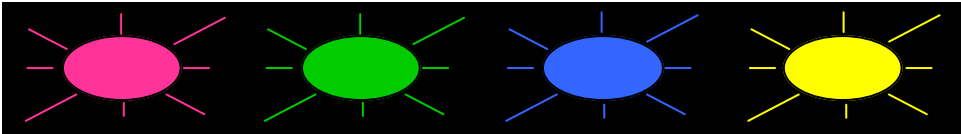


**Statement: Grosse Pointe Theatre is preparing to embark on the next phase of our life. In order to survive and thrive into the future, we may be changing some of the ways we've "always done it." It's potentially a scary process, but I think the necessary changes can be accomplished without sacrificing all the things that make this place special to each of us. I'd like to help.**

**Mike Trudel:** Mike first joined GPT 35 years ago. He has appeared in 11 of our productions, and he has directed three of our shows. He also has stage managed, and chaired sound on many occasions. Mike has served on our Board of Directors as President, Vice President and Public Relations Chair. He is a writer and a marketing and communications expert. He golfs (fiercely) and coaches hockey and Little League baseball. His children, David and Elizabeth, have been onstage in our productions, and he is married to Leslie. Mike has won two Emmys for best sports program as writer, director and producer.



**Statement: The two most important issues facing our organization are selling tickets and gaining membership. These issues must be the focus of every member. Producing quality theatre is vital, but without money and human resources, we will ultimately become extinct.**



## Membership News

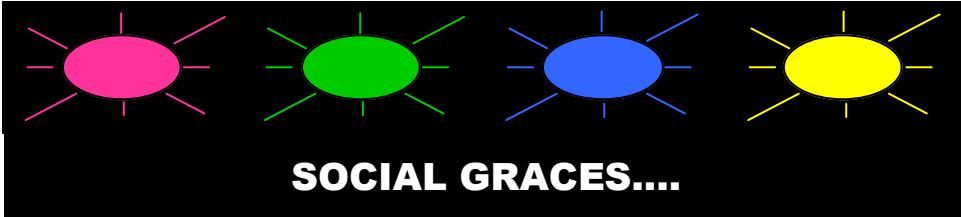
Membership Memo #17 By Pete DiSante

We're **SOMEBODY** now! The new directories are here! Pick yours up from the box in the board room. Make sure you check your name off in the book so I know you got it. I will only be mailing them out to people who request it. While modifications are being made to the GPT website, there is no directory posted there. If you would like the latest directory emailed to you as a PDF file, just let me know.

The polo shirts are here! If you ordered a GPT polo shirt, let me know how best I can get yours to you. Several extras were ordered so it's not too late to get one even if you didn't order one. Anyone who wants a GPT sweatshirt, there are still a few left. And there are many GPT tote bags still available, for just \$5!

Thanks to the many members who joined in the fun at the GP Thanksgiving Parade, and/or decorated 315, and/or attended the Holiday Party. And congrats to everyone involved with *Annie Get Your Gun*, and the two Youth On Stage plays. They all were very enjoyable and well received. What a great group!

Pete DiSante



## SOCIAL GRACES....

by Barbara Bentley, Social Chair

2010 is almost over, so whilst you have your brand new cute dog and/or cat calendars nearby, be sure to write in Saturday, June 18, 2011 as a must-not-miss event - the Grosse Pointe Theatre Annual Dinner Dance, to be held at beautiful Blossom Heath in St. Clair Shores.

I should like to thank all those who helped make the Holiday Party a success, including auction chairs, **Arlene Schoenherr** and **Emmajean Evans**, cookie treats chair, Kathy Fisk, purveyor of punch, **Chancey Miller**, friends of Santa and Mrs. Claus, **Mike Evans** and **Barbara Roney**, pianist par excellence, **Kelly Smith**, and organizers of kiddy fun, **Carolyn Darby** and **Sharron Nelson**. A special thank you to **Tony Amato** who resumed his role as auctioneer this year, to everyone who helped set up and clean up, to those who baked cookies or donated items for the auctions, and to the bidders who participated.

The next membership meeting, which will also be the annual election of officers, is scheduled a little differently, so please mark it on the above-mentioned calendars...**February 7, 2011**. Note that this is the **first Monday** in February, not the second. I am looking for a volunteer (don't make me ask) to provide the refreshments for this meeting...perhaps with a Valentine's Day theme? If you are a new member, and would like to become involved, this would be an ideal way to get your feet wet. Just call or email me. Many thanks to **Gwenn Samuel** who provided yummy pumpkin pie and other goodies for the November meeting.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Cheers!

Barbara Bentley (313) 882-9879

[bjbentley@comcast.net](mailto:bjbentley@comcast.net)

Another former member, **Don Cilluffo**, has changed his email: [DonCilluffo@gmail.com](mailto:DonCilluffo@gmail.com). For those who want his "snail mail" - it is 74334 Peppegrass St., Palm Desert, CA 92260.

**Don Corbin** spent some time in Anchorage, Alaska in December, but he and partner **Sally** returned for Christmas. They went to the graduation of **Anna Nowosad**, who received a degree in environmental science. Retired GP School System teachers, parents **John** and **Susan Nowosad** have attended our shows and donated an antique wheelchair to our prop room. Don, that bad boy, says they got a good view of Russia while there, and plan to go to Florida in July to see Cuba.

**Marly Bufalini** reports, "I recently shot a Lifetime/Sony Pictures movie with **Catherine Bell** and **Anthony Michael Hall** called *Close Quarters*. I played a priest. Was just cast as a TV anchor in a film called *The Giant Mechanical Man*. Shooting began Dec. 5. I'll have scenes with **Topher Grace**. Finished a Ford Motor Company Industrial film playing a grandpa (argh!)." He'll also be playing a German psychiatrist in an Industrial film for Pacesetter/Ritz Carleton which began shooting Nov. 30.



## January GPT Birthdays



2	Kimberly Cruchon
	Marianne Martz
	Andrew Starrico
	Vicky Urbanik
3	Vonnie Miller
6	Frank "Scott" Davis
	Carol Ann Woodburn
11	Tim Kruse
12	Carole Lombardini
15	Lita McKeehan
	Patrick McKeever
16	Patricia Connelly
	De Shaheen
19	Deborah Martell
22	George Hunt
	Mark Weber
23	Laura Bartell
	Carol Simonetti
25	Rick Hawley
26	Debra Dworkin
27	Eleonore Ellero-Groth
28	Mary Adzigian
	Dianne Pegg
29	Marilyn O'Bryan
31	Liz Purdy Porter



Whoopin' it up at *Annie Get Your Gun*

VISIT: [www.gpt.org](http://www.gpt.org)

## From the Education Chair—Harry Burkey

### Wednesday Classes for January, 2011

#### ACTING FOR STAGE OR SCREEN I

*Acting for the Stage or Screen I* is a six-week course of basic acting taught by professional actor **Harry Burkey**. It is terrific for the beginning actor or those who need a brush-up course. With the use of video feedback, the course demonstrates that everyone is capable of performing for an audience. This class is a must for new and old alike! Class begins January 12 and runs for 6 weeks on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 PM. To register, call 313-881-4004. Master Card and Visa accepted. Registration closes on January 5, 2011. Fee: \$100.00 or \$75.00 for GPT members.

#### PLAYWRITING - THE TEN MINUTE PLAY

Award-winning playwright Kim Carney instructs and mentors students on the basics of dramatic structure, character creation and plot development as she assists them in writing their own short plays. Each student's piece will be read aloud and discussed as it progresses, and a few of the best will be selected for presentation before an audience at GPT's spring showcase in May, 2011. First class session is January 19 at 7:30 PM. Other sessions will be announced on first day of class. Continual feedback via internet during course. To register, call 313-881-4004. Master Card and Visa accepted. Registration closes on January 12, 2011. Fee: \$125.00 or \$100.00 for GPT members.

#### *Dead Man's Cell Phone Ready to Ring in the New Year!*

The hilarious comedy, *Dead Man's Cell Phone* by Sarah Ruhl, has been cast with **Kathy Conlon** (Jean), **Anthony Foust** (Gordon), **Patricia O'Brien** (Gordon's Mother), **Cyndy Nehr** (the Other Woman), **Donna Miller** (Gordon's Wife) and **Sal DeMercurio** (Gordon's Brother). Assisting **Harry Burkey** (Director) is **Beth Battjes** (Stage Manager) and **David Hertzberg** (Sound). The Staged Reading is scheduled for 7:30 PM, Wednesday, January 5 at 315 Fisher. Once again food and beverage will be served, but members should call 313-885-1393 or email [gpteducation@aol.com](mailto:gpteducation@aol.com) to help with planning. The delicious repast at the last gathering was not sufficient due to the walk-ins. Don't miss this one!

#### Showcase (Workshop) Directors Needed!

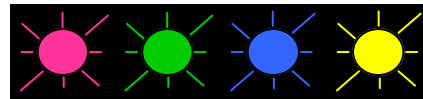
Two more Staged Readings are scheduled at 315 Fisher (February 2 and March 2, 2011), but directors are needed. Productions should be adapted to run no longer than one hour. Prospective shows for Main Stage and/or Purdon Studio will be considered first. Interested members should contact **Harry Burkey** at 313-885-1393 or [gpteducation@aol.com](mailto:gpteducation@aol.com).

## Clif's Notes - from President Clif Levin

Well, the holiday season is just about over. I hope it was a joyous time for you and your family! Why not make a one last New Year resolution? Resolve to help out on one of the remaining productions—usher, help in the scene shop or volunteer to serve on one of the crews. We can always use some assistance. Move-in for *Relatively Speaking* is just around the corner and many hands make light work.

The Board and the Advisory Committee are busy at work developing the Strategic Plan. You will continue to hear more about it, as it is the intent of the group to be totally transparent and to also involve members all along the way.

Don't forget the next Membership meeting is February 7, 2011, the first Monday of the month. This is the election meeting, so be sure to vote for Vice President, Treasurer and Membership Chair. Can't make the meeting? Contact Marianne Casey to obtain your absentee ballot. Take good care, be well and remember that we appreciate all that you do for GPT!



**Marie** and **Tim Reinman** celebrate the holidays prior to Christmas in a good, old-fashioned way at the Boyle Farm in Canada. One of her brothers hitches up a trailer to the tractor and, with all of the kids, goes out and they choose and cut down a prime Christmas tree. The entire family decorates with the same decorations Marie and siblings had as children. Joy and celebrations ensue. On Christmas Eve, each family returns home to celebrate the holiday. Sounds like fun. Marie, can we come next year?

Also having family fun are **Darline** and **John Bucchare**, who visit 'leventy-seven different relatives Christmas Eve and Christmas day. They also are expecting a new grandchild in January!

**Margaret Ferrara** is finishing up her first six-month internship (in housekeeping) at Walt Disney World and will be starting a second internship (in events planning) in January. She won't be home for Christmas, so **Peter**, **Will**, and **Miranda** took Christmas to her. They had a delightful time despite a record cold spell. They also visited Miranda's brother in Fort Lauderdale.

Part of a note received from **Claire Wilcox**, daughter of long-time member **Marie Berteel**:

"Hello to all her GPT friends from Marie Berteel! Marie has settled nicely into Hillcrest Convalescent Center near to her daughter Claire and son-in-law **Allen's** house in Durham, NC. She is still dependent on the kind nurses and assistants for her care, and is cheerful with all of them. She gets large print magazines and the daily newspaper to read. And the *Grosse Pointe News*, St. Paul's newsletter, and GPT's *Sock and Buskin* give her Michigan news. Daughter **Cheryl Berteel** visits whenever she can. Marie celebrated her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday in November! And she is pleased to announce the arrival of **Milla Lenore Puchowski**, her newest great-grandchild, daughter of **Lauren Wilcox Puchowski**. Marie sends her best wishes for a terrific 2011 to all the fine folks at GPT. Keep up the good work, and God bless you."

And our prayers and thoughts surround **Jesse Villegas** who recently lost his sister, and **Suzanne Rutkowski**, on the death of her mother. You can reach Jesse at 937 Lincoln, GP 48230, 313-417-8902. Suzanne's address is 32511 Cambridge, Warren 48093, 586 264-7550. Group hug.

For next month, we will be closing the column earlier than usual due to scheduled surgery for the author. So, please get your events in by the 4th of January, absolutely no later. How about sharing unusual or wonderful gifts received during the holiday season!

Clif

Don't miss the membership meeting—be there and vote!

Annual Meeting  
Monday, February 7  
War Memorial Auditorium  
7:30 PM